



## Biathlon Hopefuls?

Bill Spencer, Randy Hill and Nancy Johnson lead the presentation on what goes on in the Biathlon at the Wasatch Middle School last week. With the Biathlon Events coming to Soldier Hollow in 2002 the training opportunities for the youth of the county are tremendous. Nancy Johnson is the Jr. Olympic Rifle Coach, Randy Hill has produced a talent identification process out of U of U and Bill Spencer is a former Olympian and sits on the International Biathlon Union.

3-11-98



# Wasatch Youth Have Op

3-18-98

The Heber Valley Gun Club has recently been involved in a number of projects and events including the upcoming Round Robin Trapshooting Tournament, the Junior Olympic Rifle and Biathlon Marksmanship Training Program and several A.T.A. Trapshooting tournaments

The Gun Club will again be host to three weeks of Round Robin trapshooting competition at its trapshooting range on Big Hollow Road. The Round Robin will be held on three consecutive Sundays beginning on Sunday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. Shooters of all ages and abilities are urged to participate. Shooters will be randomly chosen to compete on a team consisting of

shooters of five ability levels from advanced to beginners. Each Sunday, the participant will shoot at 75 targets. On the last day of competition, prizes will be awarded to the winning teams and the winning shooter in each ability level. In the past, teams have won such prizes as sleeping bags, shooting jackets, binoculars and fishing poles. In addition, the top teams will be eligible to compete in the State Round Robin tournament to be held at the Salt Lake Gun Club on Sunday, April 19, where additional prizes will be awarded. The cost for the local tournament is \$20.00 per week for targets, plus ammunition, if needed, which can be purchased at the gun club for \$5.50 per box.

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what I could do. but I knew "I'd of Friday. Of course, at the last inch was canceled and I was able ociation luncheon.

thered, "coincidentally" at the y sheer luck. After all, I supposed to be to at 1:30 and brother atch...We performed our prevarpanache. Congratulations, mom,

the Heber Valley. Recognizing the need to introduce and train youth in the shooting sports, the Gun Club opened its ranges to a Junior Olympic three-position rifle program which additionally offers marksmanship training for those youth who may be interested in entering the sport of biathlon. Girls and boys compete on an equal basis using a .22 smallbore rimfire target rifle. They shoot in prone, standing

over

# Olympics Offer New Opportunities For Local Youth

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period at 50 feet. A match consists of 40 shots in the various positions. Accuracy and consistency are the mark of a good shooter. This is an NCAA sport that offers scholarships and programs for qualified youths at 40 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. including the U.S. Air Force Academy. The goal for this sport is the Summer Olympics at which Americans consistently win medals.

Heber Valley will host the Olympic Biathlon portion of the Winter Olympics in 2002, and youths in this area have a unique opportunity to train in this sport. Biathlon combines cross-country skiing and shooting into one event. Biathlon shooting is in the prone and standing positions. The test for the athlete is to shoot accurately at the target with an accelerated heart rate and rapid breathing from the exertion of skiing. Penalties are given for every shot missed.

Nancy Johnson coaches the local program. She is a certified coach trained at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs and USA Shooting, which is the national governing body for Olympic shooting sports. Six years of coaching juniors in Colorado and two years at the National Sports Foundation Junior Biathlon Program in Park City has provided her with the experience to train youths in the marksmanship skills needed to become competitive. She is assisted by her husband Craig Johnson, who also coaches the University of Utah Rifle Team, and Herb Lepley, a long time competitive rifle shooter. The Heber Valley has a great opportunity to produce some of the best junior rifle and biathlon shooters in the country. Registered as the only Explorer Shooting/Biathlon post in the nation, scouting youths have the chance also to combine their interest in shooting with scouting. A recent meeting at Wasatch Middle School brought a great deal of interest in the program. Any others who may be interested should contact Nancy Johnson at 647-5780 for further details.

In addition to the aforementioned events, the Heber Valley Gun Club will be hosting two registered ATA shoots on May 2 and 3 and on August 22 and 23. Gun Club members, along with the State Fish and Game, have been making an effort to bring about some major changes at the club. The Fish and Game is in the process of fencing and gating the site. Only Gun Club members will have access except for design-

nated shoot dates during which the public is invited to participate. There has been an effort to keep the shooting ranges clean, and the public is being asked to help in this effort when using the area. The Sheriff's Department has been patrolling the area on a regular basis, and vandals will be prosecuted. The Heber Valley Gun Club is a facility for the benefit of all Heber Valley residents, and all interested individuals are welcome to participate.